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Item 178 of the provisional agenda*
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 4 September 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to several incidents of Palestinian terrorism directed against Israeli civilians in the last few days.

Within the space of seven hours on Sunday morning, 2 September 2001, four separate bombs exploded in the streets of Jerusalem. The first explosion occurred just after midnight in the northern Jerusalem neighbourhood of French Hill. Police were summoned after a suspicious object had been spotted in the front yard of an apartment building. As police attempted to neutralize the bomb, it exploded, damaging the side of the building. Just after 4 a.m., a large pipe bomb packed with nails and hidden under a parked truck exploded in the nearby neighbourhood of Ma'alot Dafna; one woman was treated for shock. Then, at 7.45 a.m., another bomb exploded in French Hill adjacent to the neighbourhood's commercial centre. One woman was lightly wounded in the blast. At roughly the same hour, a bomb exploded across town in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Gilo, lightly injuring three people. A group calling itself the Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for all four bombs.

This morning, yet another terrorist explosion occurred in the heart of Jerusalem. At approximately 7.45 a.m. a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated an explosive charge at the corner of Strauss and Hanevi'im Streets near the central Russian Compound section and just a few metres from the Sbarro restaurant that was bombed on 9 August 2001. Thirteen people were wounded in the blast, two of them seriously.

These five bombings are the latest manifestations of an escalating campaign of Palestinian terrorism that is now entering its twelfth month. Previous incidents have been detailed in my letters dated 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001

* A/56/150.

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(A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001 (A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108), and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

These attacks come in addition to scores of others, including drive-by shootings, stabbings and mortar fire, that have targeted Israeli civilians as they drive on roads, go shopping and even as they sit peacefully in their homes. To date, 164 Israelis have been killed and over 1,600 have been injured in thousands of separate terrorist attacks.

The State of Israel holds the Palestinian leadership responsible for these attacks in light of its unending incitement to hatred and violence, its refusal to fulfil its obligations to control terrorism emanating from the territory under its control and the role, both active and tacit, of the Palestinian security forces in planning and implementing terrorist attacks on Israeli targets. In a flagrant and dangerous departure from its fundamental commitment to non-violence, the Palestinian leadership has embraced the path of violence and confrontation as a means to achieve its political goals.

Israel utterly condemns this destructive and futile decision and calls upon the Palestinian leadership to act in accordance with its commitments, to renounce the use of violence and terror, and to control and discipline those who engage in violence against Israeli civilians.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 178 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Item 54 of the provisional agenda*
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to reproduce below, for your information and for circulation as a document of the General Assembly, under item 54 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session, and of the Security Council, the comments of the spokesman of the Foreign Office of Pakistan in response to a question on the misgivings arising from a reported statement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Pakistan's compliance with the agreement on the screening of Afghan refugees and also about Pakistan's role in the efforts for the release of aid workers detained by the Taliban authorities.

"As for the first part of your question, Pakistan is not throwing out any Afghan refugees who are in the Jallozai or Shamshattoo camps, where a joint screening by a UNHCR team and officials of the Pakistan Refugee Commission is taking place. However, Pakistan is not in a position to absorb any further flows of Afghan refugees, who are mostly economic migrants. We have repeatedly requested the United Nations and also other international organizations to provide relief to displaced Afghans inside Afghanistan. Relief should be provided to areas controlled by the Northern Alliance and areas controlled by the Taliban Government so that these displaced Afghans do not have to leave Afghanistan in search of food and other relief assistance.

"As your know, Pakistan has been host to the largest refugee population in the world for more than two decades now. At present, the Afghan refugees number close to 2.5 million. Since last September, Pakistan has received close to 200,000 Afghan refugees, mostly because of the drought conditions and extreme economic hardships in that country. We are not in a position to receive and take care of further influx of Afghan refugees.

* A/56/150.

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"This position should be understood by the international community, in particular against the backdrop of the news flashed on television screens of late, when a country the size of a continent finds it within its rights to turn back a ship carrying about 400 Afghan asylum-seekers from its territorial waters. It was also very aptly put by the UNHCR High Commissioner himself, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, in an article in a British paper last June, where he queried how he could ask the Pakistani officials to accept more refugees when in some of the 'industrialized and far richer countries asylum-seekers are treated like a modern day version of the plague-rat'. So I think Pakistan's position that it is no longer able to absorb further flows of refugees should be well understood.

"Regarding the second part of your question on Pakistan's role with regard to the ongoing efforts for the release of the international aid workers detained in Afghanistan, Pakistan has been doing whatever it can and it will continue to do whatever it can, so that this problem is amicably resolved."

(*Signed*) Shamshad **Ahmad**